

Excellence in inclusion awards

STEVEN F. DUPUIS
SPECIAL EDUCATION/PPS DIRECTOR

The staff from the Central Massachusetts Area Office of the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) presented awards to two Shrewsbury teachers on June 5th at a gala event held at Periwinkles Restaurant in Auburn.

Heidi Marchand and Kelly Finneran both were awarded the 2003 Excellence in Inclusive Education Award. Both teachers were given the award after they were nominated by parents of students they serve. Shrewsbury Public Schools also had numerous staff nominated from the Parker Road Pre-School for their outstanding efforts in inclusive education.

A parent from The Parker Road Preschool, Julia Hardy, stated that Heidi Marchand was "a wonderful, nurturing, kind, consistent teacher who is very much appreciated." Maureen Johnson (a Coolidge School parent) stated that "Mrs. Finneran was a dynamic, energetic person" who encourages her special education students to "try new things." She stated that Kelly "goes above and beyond" to provide for her special needs child. "Kelly has met every goal with delight," reported the parent to DMR.

With parents, students, staff, administrators and friends in attendance Diane Enochs, Region III director, congratulated all for their efforts on behalf of children.

Beal School

Please note the specific date that your child will begin school, as half of the students will only attend on August 28 and the other half only on August 29. All kindergarten students will attend together on Tuesday, September 2. This is for both full and half-day kindergarten. Busing will be provided on all days.

Clip and Save

August 27 –First Day of School for First Grade
Kindergarten Classroom Visit and Bus Ride

First Grade Parent Orientation –7:00 p.m. (adults only)

August 28 –First Day of Kindergarten (Group A)
Full Day kindergarten parent orientation and a.m. parent orientation-6:00 p.m. (adults only)

PM Kindergarten parent orientation- 7:15 p.m. (adults only)

August 29 - First Day of Kindergarten (Group B)

September 2- All students attend kindergarten

September 8 –First Grade Curriculum Night (Parents Only)

October 1 –Kindergarten Curriculum Night (Parents Only)

The Beal School playground will be installed during the weekend of August 23. If you are able to assist, please call Gina Kelly at 508-755-4290 or Kara Frankian at 508-754-8755. Thank you!

Chaparian caps off banner year for team

COLLEEN KENNEDY
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR

As the school year wound down, students took their finals and said their good byes. However, one student was not present to take part in the end-of-school rituals along with his peers. Senior Daniel Chaparian was competing at the National Forensic League (NFL) National Speech Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia. Fresh off a first place finish at the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) Grand National Tournament in Virginia in the category of Student Congress, Dan was well prepared for the high level of competition.

After a grueling weekend of competing and working like a real congressman, Chaparian finished third in this prestigious national tournament. This national recognition is a wonderful tribute to Dan's dedication, hard work and skill. Special acknowledgement goes to coaches Marc Rischitelli and Jennifer Avedian for their leadership in guiding Dan and the entire Speech and Debate Team through a most successful season.

The Speech and Debate Team is a year-round co-curricular activity involving nearly 40 students from SHS. During the 2002/03 year the Speech and Debate Team was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Award of Excellence at the NCFL Tournament in Virginia. Twenty-two students from SHS competed with 3500 students from nearly 500 schools across the nation in Arlington, Virginia. In recognition for their team accomplishments at this tournament, SHS received the Daniel S. Masterson Award of Excellence in Forensics. This award goes to the top five schools in the tournament.

'Speechies' can compete in many different categories such as interpretation (acting within guidelines) or political, involving current events and extemporaneous speaking. For most

competitors, there is no debating and no speech writing. However, for Dan Chaparian, the story is different. This four-year speech veteran has mastered the Congress category, which involves research, debates, and votes on numerous legislative bills. He has walked away from many tournaments as a champion, including the Yale Invitational, the Bishop Healy Invitational at the College of the Holy Cross and the Villager Speech Tournament in Pennsylvania. Dan was awarded second place at the national Congress of Champions Tournament in Florida. In addition, Dan has earned first place recognition at many statewide competitions within our own state.

When asked to reflect on the team and all the work, Chaparian said, "(Speech and Debate) was a cornerstone of my four of high school. I learned a lot from Speech, from the debates I engaged in, but mostly from the people I was with. For the past four years, nothing meant more to me than Speech and Debate, and it's going to be hard to fill that void."

As a legend at tournaments on the local, state, and national levels, Chaparian will be missed and hard to replace. When practices, tournaments, and fundraisers were a little too stressful for the team, Dan would always be there with a joke, a story, or an encouraging word. Besides being an officer on the Speech and Debate team, Dan was an Honor Roll student, a member of the crew team, and the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, The Town Crier. He has also written an article for the *Shrewsbury School Journal*.

So as Dan Chaparian hangs up his suit, packs away his trophies, and finally relaxes on a Tuesday night, we hope that he remembers the wise words of former Shrewsbury coach Kitty Viscardi, "You were all winners when you stepped on the bus." So good luck to Dan in his future endeavors; he was truly a winner and will be missed by the Speech and Debate

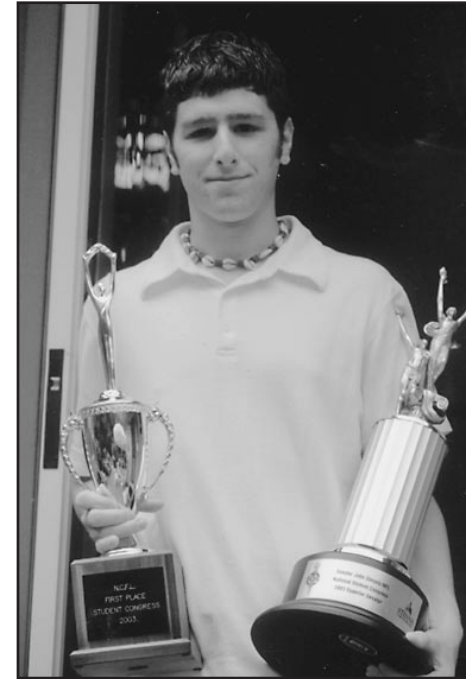


PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Dan Chaparian holds his trophies won for speech and debate at the John C. Stennis NFL National Senate and the NCFL National Student Congress.

community.

Next year, Dan is double majoring in Public Relations and Management at Boston University. The Speech and Debate Team will also miss the other graduating seniors who have contributed so much to the success of the program: Brian Freeman, Stevie Miles, Lauren Mosakowski, and Kate LeBoeuf. Tuesday evening practice sessions and the early morning Saturday bus rides and the late night return trips from statewide competitions will not be the same without them, of course, but the team is looking forward to the challenge. The team is especially looking forward to our own Mardi Gras Tournament and the national tournament, which will be held in Boston. Hopefully the Speech and Debate Team can follow the lead of Dan and the other graduated seniors and continue to build upon the successes they have brought to SHS Speech and Debate.

Taking a break from Recess



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

School Committee member Kris Palomba stands behind Joey Palomba, Patrick Walsh and Alyssa Palomba during a break from the Summer Recess reading program. Kris and her daughter Alyssa were two of the many volunteers helping children with their summer reading requirements at the Shrewsbury Public Library.